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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

ORGANIZATION OF WORK: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Note by the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. The attention of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is drawn to the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, listed in sections I and II below, which are relevant to the work of the Special Committee in 1993.

I. GENERAL RESOLUTIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

2. The Special Committee was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration.

3. At its seventeenth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee, 1/ the General Assembly adopted resolution 1810 (XVII) of 17 December 1962, by which it enlarged the Special Committee with the addition of seven new members. It invited the Committee "to continue to seek the most suitable ways and means for the speedy and total application of the Declaration to all Territories which have not yet attained independence".

4. At the same session, by resolution 1805 (XVII) of 14 December 1962 on the question of South West Africa, the General Assembly requested the Special Committee to discharge, *mutatis mutandis*, the tasks assigned to the Special Committee for South West Africa by resolution 1702 (XVI) of 19 December 1961. By resolution 1806 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, the Assembly decided to dissolve the Special Committee for South West Africa.

5. By resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations.

6. At the same session and at each subsequent session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee, 2/ has adopted a resolution renewing the mandate of the Committee.

7. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly, on the basis of a recommendation of the Special Committee, adopted resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980, the annex to which contains the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

8. At its forty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, by which it declared the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

9. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, by adopting resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsed as a Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1). The Plan, inter alia, contained the following provisions:

> "22. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:
>
> "(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in each Territory;
>
> "(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;
>
> "(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.
>
> "23. The Special Committee should continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories.
>
> "24. The Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies."

10. At the forty-seventh session, after considering the report of the Special Committee, 3/ the General Assembly adopted resolution 47/23 of 25 November 1992 in which it, inter alia:

> "5. Approves the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 1992, including the programme of work envisaged for 1993; 4/

"...

"12. Requests the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that have not yet attained independence and, in particular:

"(a) To formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session;

"(b) To make concrete suggestions which could assist the Security Council in considering appropriate measures under the Charter with regard to developments in colonial Territories that are likely to threaten international peace and security;

"(c) To continue to examine the compliance of Member States with resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

"(d) To continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination and independence;

"(e) To take all necessary steps to enlist world-wide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

"13. Also calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to receive visiting missions to the Territories to secure first-hand information and ascertain the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants;

"14. Further calls upon the administering Powers that have not participated in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its 1993 session;".

11. Prior to the adoption of resolutions 47/23, by which the General Assembly approved the proposals contained in the report of the Special Committee regarding the Committee's proposed programme of work for 1993; and 47/24 of 25 November 1992 concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, the Assembly had before it the report of the Fifth Committee on the programme budget implications of the recommendations contained in the draft resolutions (A/47/711). Consideration of this matter by the Fifth Committee was based on the related statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/47/48) and the oral statement by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (see A/C.5/47/SR.31).

12. At its 93rd plenary meeting, on 22 December 1992, the President of the General Assembly drew attention to a letter dated 25 November 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations addressed to him (A/47/812), containing a request by Grenada to be admitted to membership in the Special Committee. The President informed the Assembly that, having held the necessary consultations with the regional groups, he had nominated Grenada as a member of the Special Committee. At the same meeting, the General Assembly decided to take note of that nomination (decision 47/312).

13. By a letter dated 10 December 1992 (A/47/774), the Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that the then Czech and Slovak Federal Republic would cease to exist on 31 December 1992 (see also A/47/861).

14. At its 95th plenary meeting, on 19 January 1993, the General Assembly decided to admit the Czech Republic to membership in the United Nations (resolution 47/221). Following consultations held with the regional groups concerning the filling of the seat that had been occupied by the former Czechoslovakia in the Special Committee, the President of the General Assembly nominated the Czech Republic as a member of the Special Committee, with immediate effect. At the same meeting, the General Assembly decided to take note of that nomination. 5/

15. As of 19 January 1993, the Special Committee was composed of the following 25 members: Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela and Yugoslavia. The membership in 1992 of the subsidiary bodies of the Committee is given in the annex to the present document.

II. RESOLUTIONS, CONSENSUSES AND DECISIONS CONCERNING SPECIFIC ITEMS CONSIDERED BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN 1992

16. As mentioned in section I above, the General Assembly by paragraph 12 of its resolution 47/23 requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories that had not yet attained independence and, in particular, to formulate specific proposals for the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism. The Assembly also adopted 9 other resolutions, 2 consensuses and 4 decisions relating to specific items considered by the Committee in 1992 which are listed below. Members will wish to take them into account in drawing up the Committee's programme of work for 1993.

A. Resolutions, consensuses and decisions concerning specific Territories

1. Resolutions

Territory	Resolution No.	Date of adoption
Western Sahara	47/25	25 November 1992
New Caledonia	47/26	25 November 1992
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	47/27 A and B	25 November 1992

2. Consensuses

Territory	Decision No.	Date of adoption
Gibraltar	47/411	25 November 1992
Pitcairn	47/412	25 November 1992

3. Decisions

Territory	Decision No.	Date of adoption
East Timor	47/402	20 September 1992
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	47/408	10 November 1992
St. Helena	47/413	25 November 1992

B. Resolutions concerning other items

Item	Resolution No.	Date of adoption
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations	47/14	16 November 1992

Item	Resolution No.	Date of adoption
Activities of those foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa	47/15	16 November 1992
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	47/16	16 November 1992
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	47/17	16 November 1992
Cooperation and coordination of the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in their assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories	47/22	25 November 1992
Dissemination of information on decolonization	47/24	25 November 1992

C. Decision concerning other questions

Question	Decision No.	Date of adoption
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples	47/409	16 November 1992

III. OTHER RESOLUTIONS RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

17. Other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session that are relevant to the work of the Special Committee are listed below:

Item	Resolution No. and date of adoption
Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States	47/12 29 October 1992
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference	47/18 23 November 1992
Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security	47/60 9 December 1992
Questions relating to information	47/73 14 December 1992
Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination	47/77 16 December 1992
Status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	47/78 16 December 1992
Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	47/79 16 December 1992
Status of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid	47/81 16 December 1992
Importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination and of the speedy granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples for the effective guarantee and observance of human rights	47/82 16 December 1992
Universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination	47/83 16 December 1992
Use of mercenaries as a means to violate human rights and to impede the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	47/84 16 December 1992
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	47/94 16 December 1992

Item	Resolution No. and date of adoption
Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women	47/95 16 December 1992
Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances	47/97 16 December 1992
Respect for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking	47/98 16 December 1992
Examination of the status of international cooperation against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances	47/99 16 December 1992
Implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and the Global Programme of Action against illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances: action by agencies of the United Nations system	47/100 16 December 1992
United Nations International Drug Control Programme	47/101 16 December 1992
International action to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking	47/102 16 December 1992
Policies of apartheid of the Government of South Africa	47/116 18 December 1992
United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa	47/117 18 December 1992
An Agenda for Peace: preventive diplomacy and related matters	47/120 18 December 1992
World Conference on Human Rights	47/122 18 December 1992
Right to development	47/123 18 December 1992
Respect for the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States in their electoral processes	47/130 18 December 1992

Item	Resolution No. and date of adoption
Strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity	47/131 18 December 1992
Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms	47/137 18 December 1992
Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections	47/138 18 December 1992
Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity	47/148 18 December 1992
Specific measures in favour of island developing countries	47/186 22 December 1992
Convening of a global conference on the sustainable development of small island developing States	47/189 22 December 1992
Pattern of conferences	47/202 22 December 1992
Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations and programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993	47/212 23 December 1992
Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1994-1995	47/213 23 December 1992
Programme planning	47/214 23 December 1992
Improving the financial situation of the United Nations	47/215 23 December 1992
Other questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993	47/219 23 December 1992
Programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993	47/220 23 December 1992

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 25, document A/5238.

2/ See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to forty-seventh sessions. For the most recent, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/45/23); ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/46/23); and ibid., Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/47/23).

3/ A/47/23 (Parts I-VII); to be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/47/23).

4/ A/47/23 (Part I), chap. I, sect. J; to be issued subsequently as part of Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/47/23).

5/ Decision not yet published.

Annex

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE IN 1992

Working Group

Committee officers:

Papua New Guinea (Chairman)
Cuba (Vice-Chairman)
Sierra Leone (Vice-Chairman)
Czechoslovakia (Vice-Chairman)
Syrian Arab Republic (Rapporteur)

Officers of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance:

Tunisia (Chairman)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (Rapporteur)

Other members:

Congo
Fiji
Trinidad and Tobago

Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance
(24 members)

Afghanistan
Bulgaria
Chile
China
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
Czechoslovakia
Ethiopia
Fiji
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Mali
Papua New Guinea (Chairman)
Russian Federation
Sierra Leone
Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
United Republic of Tanzania
Venezuela
Yugoslavia

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REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Note by the Chairman

1. Subsidiary bodies

1. Having regard to the expected workload of the Special Committee for the current session and in the light of past experience, it is suggested that the Special Committee maintain the Working Group as a steering committee, as well as the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, subject to any modification in its membership that it might deem appropriate.

2. Allocation of items and procedure for consideration

2. Annexed to the present note is a list of matters pending for consideration by the Special Committee during the year, together with an indication of the procedure that the Committee may wish to adopt. An indication is also given of the suggested allocation with regard to each item.

3. It is understood in that connection that, in their examination of the items allocated for their respective consideration, the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies should take into account the resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session that are relevant to the work of the Committee, as listed in the note by the Secretary-General (A/AC.109/L.1793). It is also understood that they should continue to be guided by the relevant provisions of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly on the occasion of the twenty-fifth and thirtieth anniversaries of the Declaration (resolutions 40/56 of 2 December 1985 and 45/33 of 20 November 1990, respectively), as well as the Plan of Action for the

International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 on the basis of proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on the Decade (A/46/634/Rev.1 of 13 December 1991).

3. Order of priority for consideration of items

4. The Chairman will hold consultations with regard to the order of priority to be given for consideration of items in plenary meetings.

5. It is also his intention to hold consultations on specific activities envisaged under the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

6. In the meantime, subject to the availability of the working papers prepared by the Secretariat, it is suggested that the Subcommittee should commence its substantive work in accordance with the schedule of meetings as approved by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session (A/47/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 62).

4. Recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

7. In accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 of 29 November 1979, and in the light of past experience, it is suggested that the Special Committee continue to follow the procedure adopted at its 1982 session, 1/ in connection with the formulation of its recommendations to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

5. Utilization of conference-servicing resources

8. At its forty-seventh session, the General Assembly decided to waive rules 67 and 108 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly in order to permit meetings to be declared open and debates to proceed without the presence of the quorum required under those rules. The Assembly also decided that morning meetings should begin at 10 a.m.

9. As those measures have further enhanced the effective utilization of conference-servicing resources, it is suggested that the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies continue to follow the same procedure. It should be understood that, in accordance with the rules cited, the presence of a majority of members would continue to be required for any decisions to be taken.

10. In the same context, the Subcommittee is kindly requested, as far as possible, to schedule meetings only when a sufficient number of speakers will ensure full utilization of the time allotted and also to minimize the wastage

in conference resources resulting from the cancellation of scheduled meetings. The Subcommittee is requested to continue the practice of holding extensive consultations and informal meetings whenever possible, with a view to reducing the number of formal meetings to a minimum.

Notes

1/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/37/23/Rev.1), chap. I, paras. 60-69.

Annex

MATTERS PENDING FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE DURING 1993

Question	Allocation	Procedure for consideration
East Timor	Plenary	As separate item
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	"	"
Gibraltar	"	"
New Caledonia	"	"
Western Sahara	"	"
Special Committee decision of 15 August 1991 concerning Puerto Rico (A/47/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 50)	"	As appropriate
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations and related questions (General Assembly resolution 47/14)	"	As separate item
Activities of those foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa (General Assembly resolution 47/15)	"	"
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly decision 47/409)	"	"

Question	Allocation	Procedure for consideration
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 47/16)	Plenary	As separate item
Cooperation and coordination of the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in their assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 47/22)	"	"
American Samoa	Subcommittee	To be decided by Subcommittee
Anguilla	"	"
Bermuda	"	"
British Virgin Islands	"	"
Cayman Islands	"	"
Guam	"	"
Montserrat	"	"
Pitcairn	"	"
St. Helena	"	"
Tokelau	"	"
Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands	"	"
Turks and Caicos Islands	"	"
United States Virgin Islands	"	"

Question	Allocation	Procedure for consideration
International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (General Assembly resolution 46/181 and report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1 of 13 December 1991, annex))	Plenary/ Working Group	As appropriate
Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters	Working Group	"
Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable	"	"
Pattern of conferences (General Assembly resolution 47/202)	"	"
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories (para. 13 of General Assembly resolution 47/23)	Plenary/ Subcommittee	"
Dissemination of information on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 47/24)	"	"
Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories, as well as Those in South Africa, Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights	"	"
Matters relating to the small Territories (para. 12 (d) of General Assembly resolution 47/23)	"	To be taken into consideration in the examination of specific Territories
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (art. 15 of the Convention)	"	"
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 47/17)	"	"
Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization (para. 12 (c) of General Assembly resolution 47/23)	"	"